

Typhoon Sam (16W)

Typhoon (TY) Sam (16W) formed over the Philippine Sea in mid August and tracked northwestward across northern Luzon into the South China Sea then made landfall over Hong Kong before dissipating in Southern China. TY Sam reached a peak intensity of 75 kt just before making landfall near Hong Kong, China and caused significant damage in the Philippines and China.

TY Sam (16W) developed as a large circulation with monsoon depression characteristics and maximum winds on the periphery. JTWC issued a TCFA at 172330Z August as satellite analysis indicated an increase in the organization of convection in the area. JTWC issued the first tropical cyclone warning at 30 kt intensity nine hours later as the developing cyclone moved slowly northwestward. TY Sam achieved tropical storm strength at 190000Z and typhoon strength two days later at 210600Z.

As TY Sam (16W) intensified, the subtropical ridge to the north became more influential as a steering influence, adding a westward component to its previous northward track. TY Sam tracked across northern Luzon at tropical storm strength before entering the South China Sea and intensifying to typhoon strength. TY Sam made landfall about 10 nm northeast of Hong Kong with typhoon strength winds of 75 kt, then moved northwestward over southern China for 24 hours before dissipating. JTWC issued the 20th and final warning on 230300Z August.

Fatalities from the system included seven in the Philippines and 17 dead in China. CNN reported three fatalities and over 200 injured when a plane tried to land during storm passage and crashed at Hong Kong International Airport. The Hong Kong Observatory reported TY Sam was the wettest tropical cyclone to affect Hong Kong since 1926.

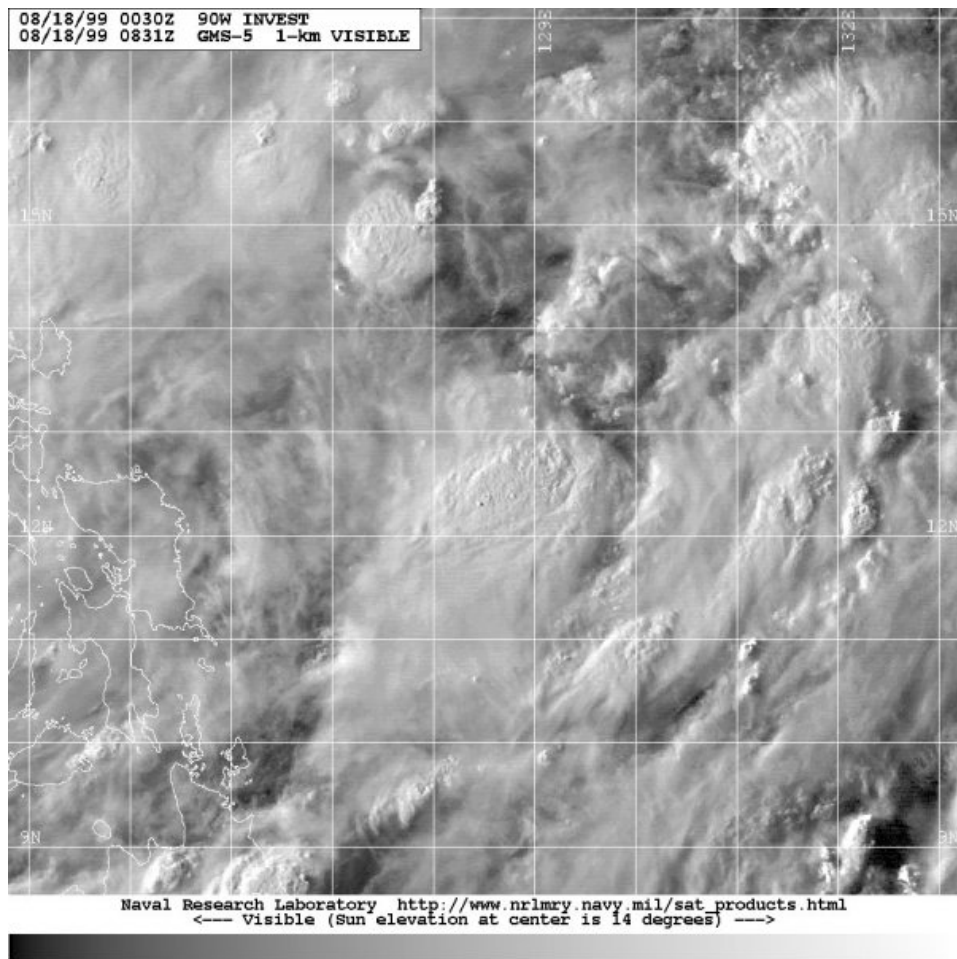


Figure 1-16-1. 180831Z August GMS-5 visible image of TY Sam (16W) shortly after the first warning. Notice the broad circulation and monsoon depression characteristics. TY Sam was at 30 kt intensity.

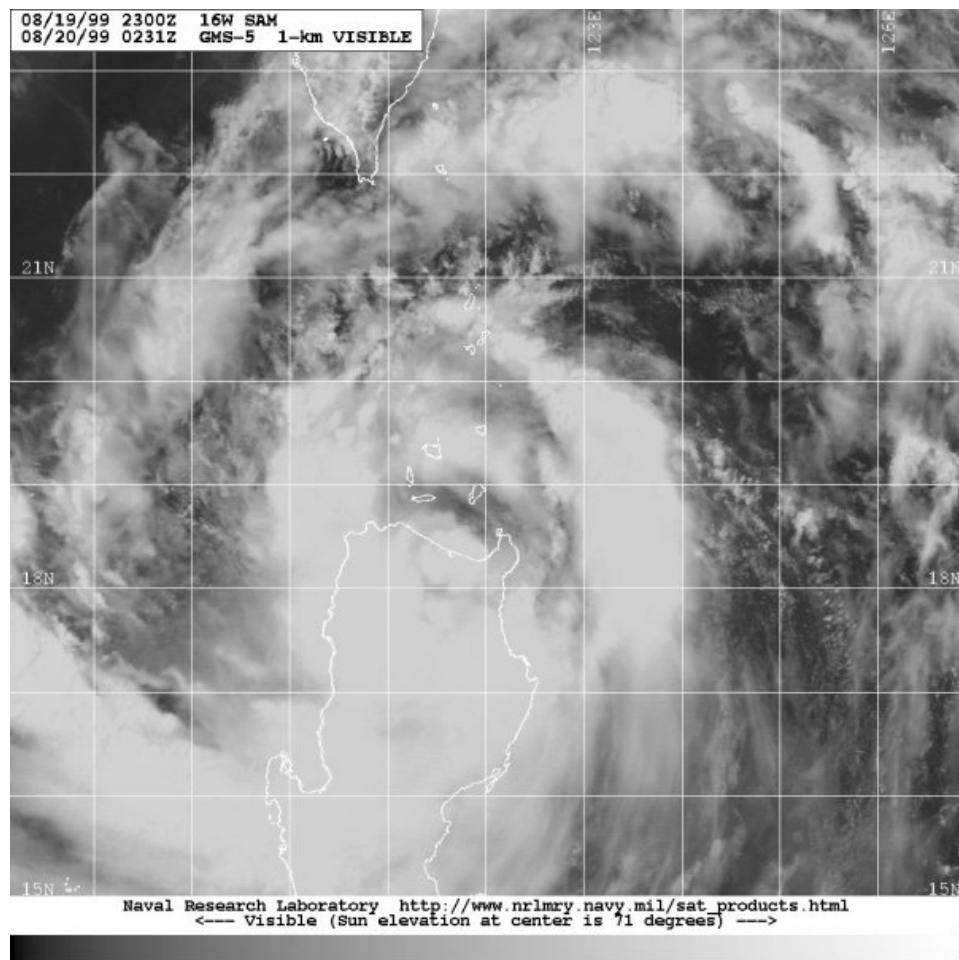


Figure 1-16-2. 200231Z August GMS-5 visible image of TY Sam (16W) as it tracked over northern Luzon. The large areal extent of the circulation is clearly visible. TY Sam was at 50 kt intensity.

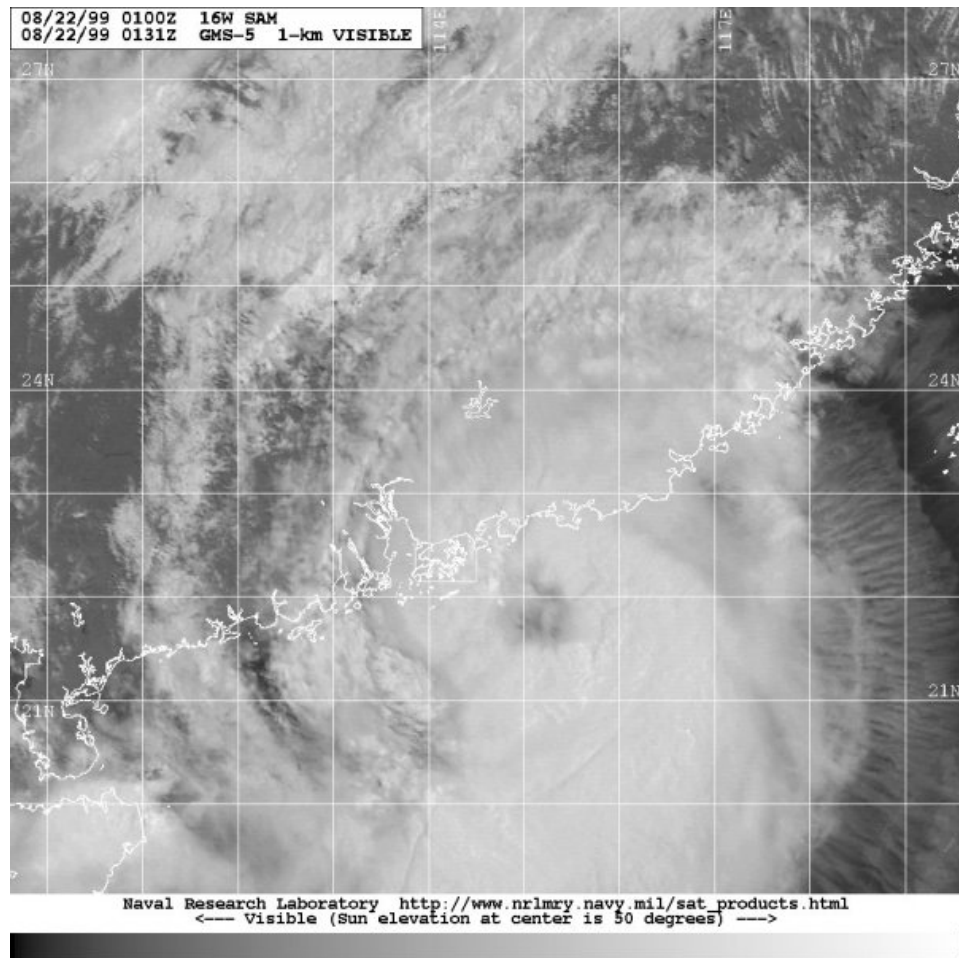


Figure 1-16-3. 220131Z August GMS-5 visible image of TY Sam (16W) at its peak intensity of 75 kt, just before making landfall northeast of Hong Kong.

